

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

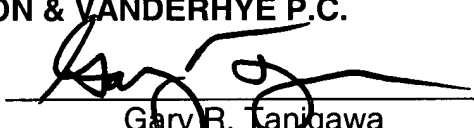
Claims 1-27 and 29-45 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 22-30, 40, 42 and 44 were examined on the merits. Non-elected claims 2, 4, 14-21, 31-39, 41, 43 and 45 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claim 28 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer because an intended use does not provide a positive limitation on the base claim directed to a product. Claim dependencies are corrected in accordance with the renumbered claims. The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter is added by their entry.

Having fully responded to all of the pending objections and rejections contained in this Office Action, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Gary R. Tanigawa  
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100